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**Northeastern  
Area**

State and Private  
Forestry

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# Northeastern Area Strategic Direction for Landowner Assistance



Ensuring for future generations the finer things in life.

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# Northeastern Area Strategic Direction for Landowner Assistance

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# I. Introduction

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Forest lands contribute substantially to the United States economy while influencing the quality of life for all Americans. Ownership of forests is diverse, with 48% classified as nonindustrial private lands, 10% industrial private lands, 19% National Forest System lands, and 23% other public lands. In 1997, private forest lands provided 80% of the domestic forest products. The demand for goods and services is expected to increase significantly, and nonindustrial private forest lands are expected to supply the raw materials to meet this demand. In addition to wood and special forest products, private forest lands provide quality soil, air, and water resources; community vitality, recreation, habitat for wildlife including threatened and endangered species, and aesthetic values. To ensure the availability of these public benefits, private forests must be healthy and sustainable.

The Nation's agricultural lands also benefit from agroforestry practices. Agroforestry includes both conservation and economic measures that utilize forestry technology to enhance and help sustain agricultural systems. Examples include: riparian buffers; windbreaks; bioengineering to protect and conserve valuable soil, water, air, and wildlife resources; alley cropping; and traditional forest products into agroforestry practices. In addition special product development and marketing add economic diversity opportunities for agricultural producers.

Tree planting has been a major focus for public conservation programs since the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) era. Interest continues to be high among private landowners for programs that emphasize planting for timber production, aesthetics, traditional shelterbelts and windbreaks, and wildlife habitat. In addition, interest is increasing in planting native trees, shrubs, forbs, grasses, and other types of plants for ecosystem restoration, wildlife habitat restoration, riparian buffers, and new agroforestry practices.

Managing forest resources for health and sustainability, which can require a significant investment, over a considerable length of time, is a challenge faced by an increasing number of private landowners. Only a small amount of public funds presently is available to appropriately assist those landowners requiring such assistance. Decision-makers and the public at large lack understanding of the problems and opportunities associated with improving management on private forest lands. As a result, the societal benefits from these lands fall well short of their potential.

The importance of private forest lands can no longer be overlooked. The cost of producing the benefits that society receives from these lands, and so often takes for granted, cannot and should not be borne entirely by private landowners. Society as a whole has a tremendous stake in the success of private forest land management, if the quality of life that is presently enjoyed is to be passed on to future generations. The Forest Service and the National Association of State Foresters (NASF) in their respective leadership roles, together with other partners and cooperators, can address the needs of private landowners and society. This strategic direction for the Forest Service offers a vision for landowner assistance by 2002. It identifies five strategic priorities that will help private lands contribute substantially to the needs of society, while fully considering the rights and objectives of the individual owners. It also identifies activities that will move landowner assistance from the current reality to the Forest Service vision for the future.





Ensuring protection of the quiet places.



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## II. The Forest Service Role

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The Forest Service's role as the lead Federal forestry agency is to promote the sustainability of private forest lands. To help achieve sustainability and to support private forest land management nationally, the Forest Service does the following:

- Provides National leadership and direction for all forestry programs
- Works in partnership with State Foresters to provide a strong landowner assistance delivery system
- Strives to provide an appropriate level of technical assistance to the States and other partners
- Facilitates collaboration between USDA and other Federal agencies and States on issues affecting private lands and landowner assistance
- Improves communications and coordination within USDA about the importance of forestry and private lands
- Increases the awareness of the public and key decision makers about the importance of private forest lands and their protection and management
- Increases the awareness of the public and key decision makers about the role of trees on non-forest land uses
- Monitors and reports the conditions and trends of the Nation's forests and changing landowner needs
- Maintains a strong research and technology transfer program to assist private forest land management

Historically, collaborative stewardship by Federal and State forestry agencies has emphasized delivery of services on nonindustrial private forest land ownerships. Since the 1920's, most States have greatly improved their ability to meet the diverse needs of private landowners. Federal forestry programs and initiatives have helped strengthen the state delivery system. In addition, state forestry associations, forest landowner organizations, non-governmental organizations, private consultants, wildlife agencies, soil and water conservation districts, Rural Conservation and Development Councils, and the forest industry are becoming more involved with landowner assistance programs. Many needs remain unmet by current landowner assistance programs, however, due to factors including these:

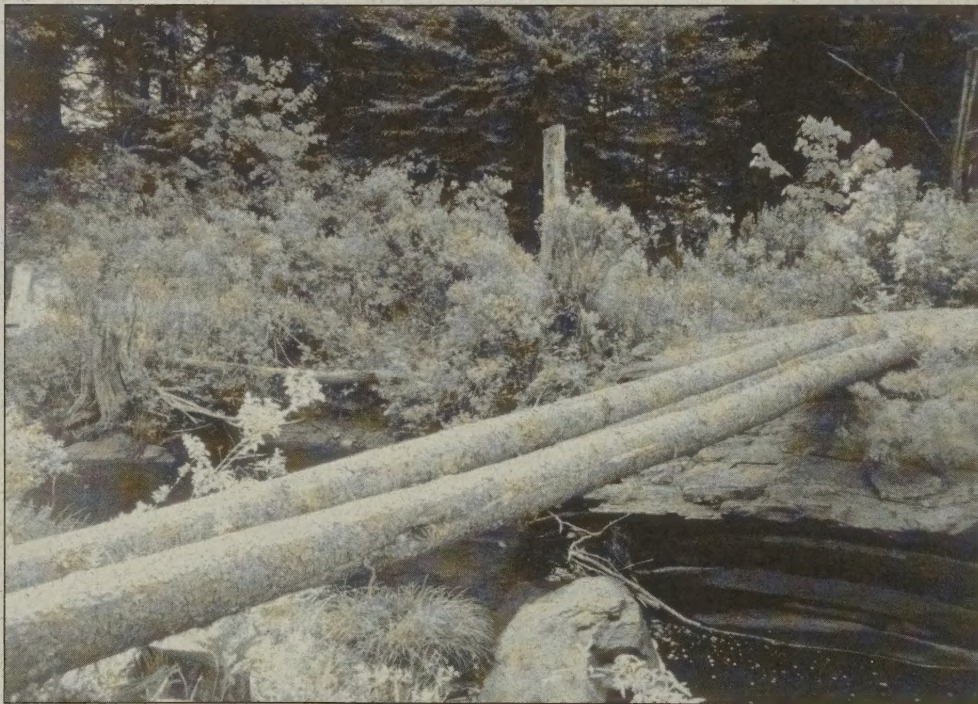
- World wood shortages
- Declining timber production from Federal lands
- Increasing demands for wood, wildlife habitat, quality water, soil stability, scenic beauty, and open space
- Legal requirements such as protecting endangered species
- Increasing parcelization, number of private landowners, and private ownership rights
- Declining resource accessibility for timber production
- Urban sprawl eliminating forest land



- Declining funding levels for government incentive programs
- A need for tax reform
- Regulatory uncertainty
- Increased concerns about the forest health, such as more frequent introduction of exotic pests
- Increased demand for state produced nursery tree seedlings in an atmosphere of decreasing State budget.

The purposes of this strategic direction for landowner assistance are these:

- To clarify the role of the Forest Service Northeastern Area, in private landowner assistance
- To call attention to the critical importance of these lands to the future economic, social, and environmental health and prosperity of the Nation
- To chart a course to the future where landowners are motivated, encouraged, and assisted to improve the management of their lands using sustainable stewardship principles
- To increase state forestry agency flexibility to meet the needs of the local forest landowner
- To enhance the strong state delivery system already in place and strengthen existing programs
- To identify areas where new programs, laws, and approaches may be necessary to meet the diverse objectives of private landowners
- To expand and improve partnerships.



Bridging the gap between the private landowner and the Federal role.



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### III. Vision

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Forest Service landowner assistance features interdisciplinary management. This approach produces a multitude of products, benefits, and services, while improving the inherent productivity of private forests and stabilizing the private forest land base. Applied research and technology transfer supports this effort. Further a variety of informational, educational, and financial tools are employed to facilitate landowner understanding of their opportunities and assist them in achieving their objectives. The vision for the future is as follows:

**Through the landowner assistance programs the Forest Service, Northeastern Area, will promote and assist nonindustrial private forest landowners in managing their lands in a manner that results in healthy and sustainable forests. These programs will be voluntary, will respect landowner rights and responsibilities, and will adhere to State and Federal laws and regulations. The Forest Service will work with other agencies to foster an atmosphere for an expanded private sector role in the delivery of technical services to private landowners. The Forest Service and its partners to adjust to changing land ownership, demographics and local conditions will modify delivery of landowner assistance programs.**

This landowner assistance vision will be achieved by a broader-based, more collaborative approach. Essential to this vision is better coordination of Forest Service landowner assistance programs with complementary programs of state forestry agencies; USDA agencies (Natural Resources Conservation Service; Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service; and Consolidated Farm Service Agency); colleges and universities; Soil and Water Conservation Districts; the forest industry; private consultants; and non-governmental organizations.

This strategic direction guides the Forest Service in achieving the vision by 2002. The following indicators will be used to measure change.

- Increase the number of professional foresters serving nonindustrial private forests from the present one per 100,000 nonindustrial forest acres to one per 25,000 acres. This number includes state service foresters, consultants, industrial foresters, extension foresters and private organization foresters.
- Double the number of other natural resource professionals serving the Nonindustrial Private Forests (NIPF) owners. This number includes wildlife biologists, fisheries biologists, soil conservationists, archaeologists, field biologists, and engineers.
- Increase the percentage of NIPF acres with forest management plans from 20% to 50%.
- Increase the percentage of NIPF owner harvest operations that are being assisted by a professional forester from 20% to 75%.
- Increase NIPF productivity potential from 50% to 75%.
- Decrease nonstocked and poorly stocked stands from 25% to 15%.
- Increase the percentage of NIPF owners who know where to obtain professional forestry advice from 50% to 100%.
- Reduce the conversion from forest to nonforest or nonproductive use in the urban-rural interface to zero net loss.



- Protect all biologically and economically important forested areas with conservation easements or other practical means.
- Conduct the assessment and monitoring of forest conditions and health in a timely manner.
- Coordinate Forest Service monitoring efforts with other recognized inventories.



Sustainability is the vision. (Photo taken two years after a harvest.)



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## IV. Strategic Priorities

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Five strategic priorities are described to guide the Forest Service in achieving its landowner assistance vision:

- A. Sustaining a Productive Land Base
- B. Improving Forest Management
- C. Improving Forest Resource Monitoring and Assessment
- D. Raising Awareness
- E. Coordinating Delivery of Assistance Programs

### A. Sustaining a Productive Land Base

The rate at which private forest ownerships are being divided into smaller tracts and the concurrent increase in the number of landowners is causing significant concern regarding forest sustainability and the future production of associated forest resources. In addition land conversion from forest uses to nonforest uses and other factors are causing concern. The urbanization of formerly rural forest land without appropriate protection or conservation practices and planning compromises local ability to protect human and natural resources.

#### Need

Currently, one-third of the nation's land area is forested. Forest acreage has remained fairly constant in recent years; however, ownership patterns have changed dramatically. Increasing numbers of landowners and decreasing tract size may limit economic options for landowners and may lead to accelerated development and loss of forest land.

Land usage continues to shift between agriculture and forests. However, shifts of forest land to urban areas are generally permanent, with 92 million acres currently in urban and built-up uses and development. During the nineties private forest land has been converted to urban uses at the rate of 450,000 acres per year. This rate is likely to continue or even increase. Also of concern is the high rate at which private forest land is being converted to smaller ownerships (see table). In 1979, about 1 acre of every 5 acres of privately owned forest land was in acreages of less than 100 acres. By 1994 this figure had increased to 1 acre of every 3 acres. This increase is a problem because landowners often face an array of Federal and state tax and environmental policies, which create uncertainty and hesitancy in investing in their forest lands. A fair governmental regulatory and stable environment should encourage landowners to practice stewardship on their land.



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**PRIVATE FOREST LAND IN U.S. IS RAPIDLY BEING CONVERTED  
TO SMALLER OWNERSHIPS**

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Acres	1978	1994	Change from 1978	
	Millions of Acres			%
1-9	4.6	6.3	107	37%
10-49	11.6	28.3	32	144%
50-99	14.3	21.9	7.6	53%
100-499	45.4	37.7	-8	-18%
500-999	8.7	6.1	-2.6	-30%
1000+	29.5	29.3	-.2	-.7%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>114.1</b>	<b>129.6</b>		

*Source: Birch, T.W. Private Forest-Land Owners of the United States, 1994. Resource Bulletin NE-134.*

## Direction

- Promote the importance of private forest lands through the media, schools, and other educational and outreach efforts. Support existing conservation education programs
- Work with States to identify critical forest land and provide incentives such as conservation easements to protect and maintain forest productivity
- Direct Federal cost share programs to forestry practices.
- Encourage Federal and State tax policies from a national context.
- Implement existing and develop new programs and policies to sustain a reasonable forest land base.
- Work closely with other organizations that are affecting land use policies and direction at all levels.
- Ensure an adequate quality source and supply of seed and seedlings.
- Distribute regional and local studies nationwide that demonstrate cost effectiveness of forest land over developed land.
- Advocate economic and land-use policies conducive to long ownership tenures, with informed grass roots support. Work toward favorable capital gains treatment, and tax incentives and credits.



## **Outcomes**

- No net decrease in forest land
- Forests will remain healthy and be managed for sustainability
- Informed public is aware of the importance of private forest lands
- Broad support for programs that encourage the retention of forest land regardless of its size.
- Integrity of important forest lands, significant habitat and associated species are protected and conserved
- Enhanced protection programs
- Rate of parcelization is reduced
- Collaborative approaches among landowners are fostered
- Property rights are protected.

## **B. Improving Forest Management**

The lack of appropriate management on a significant amount of private forest land poses a serious risk to forest health, productivity, and sustainability. Many landowners are unaware of the value of their forests and the stewardship responsibilities. Public demand for additional commodities and amenities from private forest land continues to increase.

### **Need**

A 15% increase in demand for goods and services from nonindustrial private forest land is projected by 2002. Approximately 30% of nonindustrial private forest land is not stocked with trees capable of meeting landowner and societal needs. Almost 80% of timber harvests on nonindustrial private forests do not involve professional foresters.

### **Direction**

- Expand information and outreach efforts from a wide variety of sources to reach landowners including minorities and limited resource owners
- Increase participation in landowner assistance programs
- Improve the skill, effectiveness, and availability of service providers
- Accentuate the availability of trained contractors and natural resource professionals
- Ensure supply of seed and seedlings for afforestation, reforestation, and ecosystem restoration
- Encourage a wider range of markets for forest products
- Enhance existing programs to meet the needs of private forest owners
- Develop new programs, policies, and sources of technical assistance to meet the needs of private forest owners



## Outcomes

- More landowners receive assistance from existing and new sources
- Increase in lands well stocked with trees, decrease in understocked private forests, and enhanced health and productivity
- Improve the health and inherent productivity of private forest land
- Accelerated flow of diversified commodities and amenities from nonindustrial private forest land and with more of those forests managed under individualized plans

## C. Improving Forest Resource Monitoring and Assessment

Monitoring and assessing forest resources are keys to ensuring sustainable forests management. Standardizing methods and coordinating monitoring and assessment systems with partners and other agencies results in a more comprehensive picture of needs and accomplishments. The USDA Forest Service, State and Private Forestry, will act to improve the timeliness, accuracy, and compatibility of forest resource monitoring and assessment, to provide information necessary for planning, outreach, and measurement of program effectiveness.

### Need

A better system of monitoring forest resources is needed to improve accountability, both within the Forest Service and to Congress. Reliable monitoring and assessment systems information improves program planning and design, provides data important to the forest industry, tourism and recreation industries, State agencies, conservation and environmental groups, other Federal agencies, private landowners, the general public, legislators, and other interested parties. It also provides information that is important in determining sustainable national and international goals and indicators. Within the Forest Service there are presently three monitoring systems: Forest Inventory and Analysis (FIA); Forest Health Monitoring (FHM); and National Landowner Surveys.

FIA is a well established system, but there are incompatibilities in survey methods from those used by the seven research stations responsible for collecting the data and from the National Forest inventory system. Inventory cycles vary between 7 and 14 years instead of the planned 10-year cycle. Many State organizations are requesting more frequent surveys.

The FHM system is designed to monitor and assess the conditions of the nation's forests. The Forest Service continues to add new States to the program according to an implementation schedule and funding availability. Full national implementation is expected by 1999. FHM is a cooperative program administered by State forestry agencies through Forest Service State and Private Forestry and Research. Program emphasis is on standardization of data collection methods across the Nation. FHM participation has been endorsed by the National Association of State Foresters.

National Landowner Surveys have been conducted twice, in 1978 and 1994. These surveys are not formally chartered and have been carried out by individual Forest Service research scientists and State and Private Forestry specialists. There is no fixed interval for these surveys. Information from these surveys have considerable value in identifying NIPF ownership trends and needs, and should be conducted on a regular basis.



Other natural resource surveys provide information needed for improving delivery of landowner assistance programs. Forest Service monitoring and assessment systems should strive to be compatible with and complementary to these external surveys.

## **Direction**

- Provide coordination and advocate the national standardization and improved timeliness of the USDA Forest Service Forest Inventory and Analysis surveys
- Support full implementation of the Forest Health Monitoring program
- Develop a 10-year national landowner survey cycle as a part of FIA
- Encourage compatibility of Forest Service forest resource surveys with other recognized natural resource inventories
- Assist FIA in developing report formats to serve a variety of audiences, improving accessibility and responsiveness
- Use periodic program evaluation to weed out unnecessary or dated practices.

## **Outcomes**

- FIA survey data are nationally compatible and surveys are conducted at shorter intervals
- FHM is fully implemented and provides standardized information on forest conditions
- National Landowner Surveys are chartered by the Forest Service, and a regular survey interval is established
- Improved accessibility of Forest Service survey and monitoring data
- Improved responsiveness to requests for information from outside the Forest Service
- Better tailoring of landowner assistance programs to meet landowner needs
- Improved State and Federal forest resource planning and coordination
- Better communication with legislators and the general public
- More accurate assessment of program results
- Improved compatibility and standardization of Forest Service and other Federal natural resource surveys.

## **D. Raising Awareness**

Information and outreach efforts must be focused to reach diverse landowner, bring them together to foster collaborative work at higher landscape levels, and to raise public awareness on the products and services provided by private forests.

### **Need**

Traditional landowner assistance programs are not keeping pace with the growing numbers of owners with smaller tracts (less than 100 acres). Declining budgets necessitate innovative approaches and new partnerships with an emphasis on heavy use of the media and nontraditional ways of providing information and assistance.



Viewpoints and values of U.S. citizens are increasingly urban—80 percent live in cities and towns. Citizens increasingly scrutinize and influence decisions about forest policy; however, and have differing opinions about the contributions of private forest land to their quality of life. Natural resource issues have become politicized. Forest landowners face increasing pressure to convert forest lands to agriculture and subdivisions.

Within the Forest Service, employees at all levels and in all deputy areas need a collective understanding of agency roles and responsibilities in private landowner assistance. This landowner assistance is often undervalued in light of the other missions of the Forest Service. To be a world leader in forest conservation, the Forest Service must work beyond the boundaries of the National Forests.

## Direction

- For Private Landowners
  - Continue current educational efforts
  - Enhance owner's understanding of general forest stewardship needed, for example, to maintain wildlife habitat, provide wood products, enhance water quality, improve soil productivity, maintain fire protection
  - Cooperate with other public agencies and organizations to develop new and innovative approaches for communicating information
  - Expand use of the media using modern technology and innovative techniques, including the Internet
  - Expand the development and production of customized educational materials and delivery methods
  - Communicate information about basic forest concepts
  - Develop nontraditional partnerships with private sector entities such as neighborhood associations, community groups, conservation organizations, home and garden centers, grounds maintenance services, and arborists
  - Assess and improve implementation of plans
  - Continue to pursue opportunities for information sharing

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### DISTRIBUTION OF NORTHEASTERN AREA PRIVATE FOREST-LAND AMONG OWNERS IN 1994

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Acreage	Owners (Percent)	Acres (Percent)
1-9	51.8%	4.9%
10-49	33.2%	21.8%
50-99	8.5%	16.9%
100-499	6.2%	29.1%
> 500	< .3%	27.3%

*Source: Birch, T.W. Private Forest-Land Owners of the United States, 1994. Research Bulletin NE-134*



- For Agricultural Producers
  - Enhance agricultural producer's understanding and use of forestry and agroforestry practices to help sustain farm and ranch resources and programs.
  - Cooperate with other public agencies and organizations to develop and deliver agroforestry practices to improve air and water quality, soil productivity, wildlife habitat, and economic diversity and stability.
  - Actively pursue inclusion of agroforestry practices in the "agriculture-community interface", to address sensitive natural resource management issues between agriculture and associated communities.
- For the General Public
  - Raise awareness of environmental, economic, and social benefits — such as fire protection, clean air, water, wildlife habitat, and wood and nonwood products — that the Nation's private forests contribute to the quality of life in urban and community settings
  - Create new partnerships with private sector colleagues such as water districts, power companies, neighborhood associations, community groups, and conservation organizations, to make information more widely available
  - Expand use of the media using modern technology and innovative techniques, including the Internet
  - Support existing natural resource conservation education efforts (e.g., Project Learning Tree).
- For Key Decision Makers
  - Regularly inform Congressional representatives and others about Forest Service and other partner group landowner assistance programs and the condition of private forest land
  - Raise the awareness of contributions to society from private forest lands and the potential impact of parcelization and conversion of forest land, and reduced.
- For the Forest Service
  - Communicate Forest Service policy, roles, and responsibilities in landowner assistance throughout the agency
  - Raise awareness about our Nation's forests and contributions from private forest land
  - Identify and implement research opportunities
  - Actively participate in the development of the agency's long term direction
  - Explore resource management practices that cross National Forest boundaries.

## Outcomes

- Information of NA landowner assistance programs will be better targeted to various types of landowners.
- An informed public that appreciates the contribution of private forest land management and will support private forest land programs
- Decision makers at all levels of government will have an improved understanding of the importance of private forest lands and the appropriateness of providing assistance to private forest landowners



- Forest Service employees at all levels and in all deputy areas will be more knowledgeable about private forest lands
- An informed public will appreciate the contribution of trees in improving resources, sustaining farm and ranch operations, and enhancing quality of life
- Forest Service leadership will support and promote landowner assistance and a strong State and local level of forest protection before Congress, the Administration, and the Department of Agriculture.

## **E. Coordinating Delivery of Landowner Assistance Programs**

The multitude of forestry landowner assistance programs are delivered in a simple, coordinated manner that is sensitive to landowner needs.

### **Need**

Landowner assistance programs have been relatively successful in addressing and providing service to owners of larger acreages. While this effort needs to be continued, accelerated outreach is imperative to encourage the increasing number of owners of smaller acreages to conserve and manage their forests. It is estimated that between 1994 and 2010, the number of landowners owning 100 acres or less will increase from 8 million to over 12 million. By that time, these individuals will control 38% of private forest lands. New landowners are more receptive to multiresource management messages. New marketing approaches are needed to make such owners aware of the value of their forests and the availability of assistance.

Each USDA agency that works with private forest landowners is pursuing efforts that may or may not complement one another or the initiatives of other organizations involved in landowner assistance. An effective organizational approach that puts the needs of the landowner first is critical.

Collaborative approaches are needed. Delivery programs and incentives need to be enhanced by better coordination among the Forest Service, other agencies, organizations, and individuals so that private lands provide all of the goods and services that they are capable of producing.

### **Direction**

- Expand NA's leadership role to promote stewardship of private forest land. Encourage cooperation and coordination between the Forest Service, State Foresters, and other Federal and state agencies that manage natural resources
- Work with USDA agencies to deliver Federal forestry programs in a coordinated manner
- Encourage cooperators to use private agencies, consultants, organizations, firms, and individuals to furnish necessary materials and services, so as to expand the delivery system
- Continue and enhance financial incentives for private land management
- Develop a simple, collaborative system to deliver assistance to private forest landowners
- Ameliorate environmental problems related to other land uses through tree and forest establishment



## Outcomes

- Coordinated message on forest landowner assistance
- Continued participation by owners of larger forest acreages in landowner assistance programs
- Expanded participation by owners of smaller forest acreages in landowner assistance programs
- Sustained productive forest land base and healthy ecosystems, and expanded use of trees to mitigate environmental problems
- Cooperative Forestry programs complement and support landowner assistance efforts



Bridging past uses for future understanding.  
(An old maple syrup evaporator.)





The path to stewardship is built on the partnerships among the Federal, state, and non-industrial forest owners.



## V. Implementation

The strategic direction in this document provides guidance for Forest Service landowner assistance. It presents a vision of the future, the Forest Service role, and five strategic priorities that are designed to implement the role and move the Forest Service from current reality to the vision.

ACTIVITY	RESPONSIBILITY
<b>A. Sustaining a Productive Land Base</b>	
Compile and disseminate information on the values of forests and woodlands	Legacy Program Leader
Develop and publish "Tools for Forest Land Conservation"	Legacy Program Leader and w/Extension
Develop tax related articles to reach forest owners: e.g., Country Living, Yankee, Modern Maturity, Southern Living.	Tax Specialist w/Extension
Develop one page brief series for legislators on forest benefits and tax incentives required for conservation, with analysis	Natural Resources Analysis Team
Develop Exhibit on forest conservation for shows and fairs	Information Management & Analysis
Conduct Congressional Field tours that focus on forest conservation	Legislative Liaison w/Legacy Program Leader
Conduct inventory of important forest lands that are threatened by development, within the Area, that would merit conservation protection. Sources include Legacy state assessments and state forest resource plans.	Area Planners
Develop information for nurseries on projected demands generated by cost-share programs and estimate costs of nursery improvements and expansion required to meet those demands.	Nursery specialist
<b>B. Improving Forest Management</b>	
Develop an academy for forest consultants. A permanent part of a university to provide specialized training in business practices.	Deputy Assistant Director for Forest Resources
Develop workshops on Wisconsin habitat model	Area, Field offices w/Extension

<b>B. Improving Forest Management (continued)</b>	
Actively support woodland owner associations with workshops, projects and planning	Forest Health & Management Staff
Collaborate with National Association of Conservation Districts in training their landowner network	FHM, AD
Establish a "Green Certification Team" to acquire certification for Stewardship owners	FHM, AD
Expand absentee landowner workshop to states that are not presenting doing them	FHM, AD & NAASF
Form Area-wide Forest Stewardship Council	Deputy Assistant Director for Forest Resources
Complete BMP publication and distribute through logger education courses	Water Resource Specialist
Develop alternative funding for landowner assistance programs	Area Director w/NAASF
<b>C. Forest Resource Assessment and Monitoring</b>	
Attend preinventory meetings with states and FIA	NA field office and NE Station
Stress need for required funding of Forest Health Monitoring	FHM, AD
Provide ecological interpretations of FIA data	IM&A
Fund regular landowner survey at ten-year intervals	NA, NE
Provide funding for popularized version of FIA State Reports	FHM, AD
<b>D. Raising Awareness</b>	
Organize video library in NA offices & publish catalog	IM&A
Conduct agroforestry conferences	St. Paul field office w/NRCS
Utilize Woodsy to promote key stewardship messages	IM&A
Produce regular newsletter for Congress (link with Forestry Caucus)	USDA
Have USDA Secretary recognized Service Forester of the year	FS



<b>D. Raising Awareness (continued)</b>	
Provide periodic tours for members of Congress and aides	Assistant Deputy Director for forest resources w/legislative liaison
Assist in funding and technical advice to the new "Great American Woodlot" Series	IM&A
<b>E. Coordinating Landowner Assistance Program Delivery</b>	
Seek participation of our partners in the Forest Resources Program leaders meeting	FRPL Chair/Extension
Include forestry representation on local conservation groups	Area Director & NRCS Regional personnel
Meet annually with NRCS Regions and Extension to coordinate program delivery	FHM, AD w/NRCS & Extension
Put cost-share program information on the Area WEB page	FM&A and FHM
Seek permanent funding for Extension liaison position	Area Director
Use State Forest Plans to facilitate landowner assistance program delivery	SF
Target funds for specific identified problems	FHM, AD
Target portion of WEB page to Landowner Assistance and link to all NA sites	IM&A and FHM
Train service providers on the importance of forest health and protection	FHM

\* NAASF - Northeastern Area Association of State Foresters











